

# One woman against the aliens

**Rambo is a wimp compared to Warrant Officer Ripley, a tigress who adds a new meaning to that awesome quality of woman power, who draws on latent maternalism to battle against the most formidable and frightening menace ever seen on the wide screen.**

Her opponent is a giant insect-like thing whose eggs need human bodies for gestation after which the hatchlings move like lightning to seek out their prey with devilish ferocity.

When all others have fallen prey to the attacks of the aliens, it is Ripley, believe it or not, who is

left for the final confrontation, to draw on whatever resources she can muster to beat this unbeatable foe.

Some of you will remember how, seven years ago in *Alien*, Ripley was a member of the crew of a space ship which first encountered these horrible manifestations on a plan-

★★★★ **ALIENS (M):** Hoyts. Stars Sigourney Weaver, Carrie Henn, Michael Biehn, Paul Reiser and Lance Henriksen.

et far off in the galactic void.

A terrible game of hide and seek through the dimly lit corridors of the space ship ensued until Ripley (played by Si-

gourney Weaver in her first film role) was left alone to outwit the creature and start back to Earth.

Now, at the start of *Aliens*, we find Ripley (again played by Sigourney Weaver) rescued by a salvage squad not far from her home planet.

The flight had taken the equivalent of 57 Earth years; but, because of being in suspended animation, she has not aged.

Despite the big sleep, nightmares of her experiences still haunt her. Officials are sceptical of her story and blame her for the destruction of installations on the faraway planet. Now it is colonised by 60 or so families, but recently there has been no communication with Earth. It is feared that some calamity has befallen the settlers and officials begin to wonder whether Ripley's far-fetched tales of rampaging devil things might indeed be true.

The most sophisticated weapons and have been equipped to deal with anything.

But what they find on this desolate planet is something for which no training could possibly equip them. Only one survivor — a beguiling but traumatised moppet named Newt (Carrie Henn) — is found as the marine squad, beset by inept leadership, cowardice and the pressure of overwhelming odds, is whittled away.

Worse, there is a dangerous erosion in the ranks of the expedition in the form of a sneaky yuppie company man, Burke (Paul Reiser), who does

left to her and the android Bishop (Lance Henriksen) to face the terrible, horrifying battle for survival.

Director James Cameron, whose credits include *The Exterminator*, is expert in the shock treatment of moviegoers. With hand-held cameras giving jerky realism to the continuous action sequences, he involves viewers completely in this epic of scariness.

A relentless mind-bending sound track and strobe-like lighting add further dimensions of terror as the movie pounds its way through its two hours-plus running time.

This is not just another sci-fi fright flick, it is an experience in escapism, expertly made and topped off with bewildering special effects.

It also marks the emergence of Sigourney Weaver as a major star. Previously seen in such films as *The Year of Living Dangerously* and *Ghostbusters*, she spares nothing in projecting the emotions of the tormented but resolute Ripley.

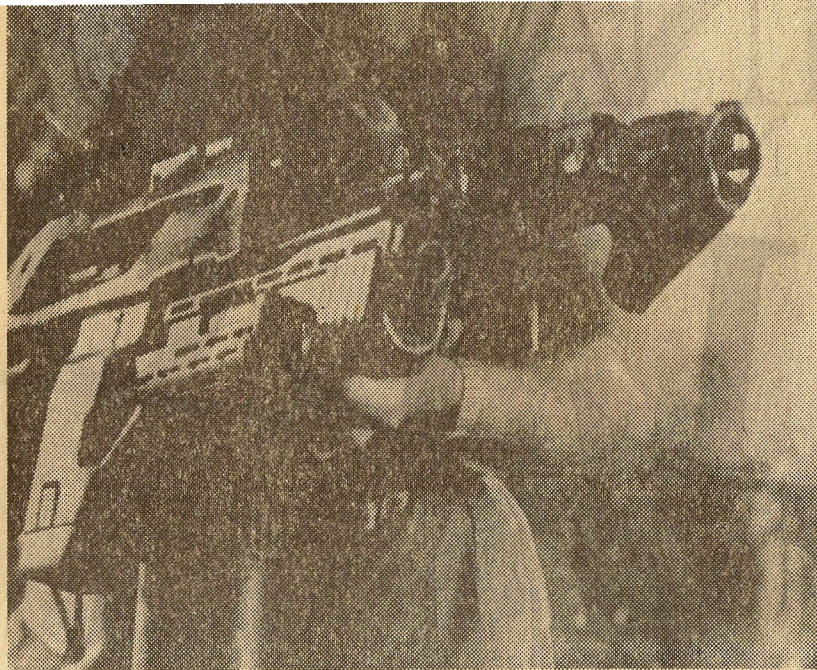
Not only is *Aliens* a triumph of convincingly manufactured horror, but for feminists — thanks to Miss Weaver — it is a classic exercise in onepupmanship.



**RIPLEY (foreground left) discusses strategy with the marine squad.**







**WARRANT OFFICER RIPLEY** (Sigourney Weaver), sole survivor of the spaceship *Nostromo*'s encounter with a deadly extraterrestrial, returns to fight again.

indeed be true.

The only way to find out is to go there, a thought which is furthest from Ripley's mind. She is assured, however, that she will be accompanied by the best the marines have to offer, a squad of gung-ho grunts who are equipped with

(Paul Reiser), who plans to take one of the aliens back to Earth as a live specimen and is prepared to sacrifice Ripley to do so.

It is Ripley's dormant maternal instinct which goads her to superhuman efforts in her efforts to save Newt. Finally it is

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